

CLAIMS

1 1. An application adapted to run on a client apparatus
2 connectable with a server across a network, said server adapted
3 to simultaneously share information maintained therein with a
4 plurality of heterogeneous clients, wherein said information
5 comprises a plurality of ideas, said application comprising:

6 means for retrieving said ideas from said server;

7 means for defining a new idea in a manner dependent on the
8 client apparatus platform; and

9 means for transmitting said new idea to said server for
10 maintenance in a platform-independent manner.

11 2. An application as claimed in claim 1 wherein said
12 application is interactive and includes:

13 means for rendering said retrieved ideas in a manner
14 dependent on the client apparatus platform; and

15 means, responsive to user interaction, for manipulating said
16 retrieved ideas.

17 3. An application as claimed in claim 1 wherein said
18 application is non-interactive and includes:

19 means, responsive to new ideas of a pre-determined type
20 transmitted to said server, for defining a search; and

5 wherein said defining means is responsive to said search
6 results for encoding said results as ideas for transmittal by
7 said transmitting means to said server.

1 4. An application as claimed in claim 2, wherein said ideas
2 comprise at least one relationship idea having attributes
3 defining a link between two other ideas and wherein said
4 application includes means for defining a relationship between
5 two ideas.

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5 5. An application as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one
 of said ideas includes a name attribute.

6 6. An application as claimed in claim 2 wherein said ideas are
 ideas of one or more types and said means for defining is adapted
 to define ideas of a pre-determined type.

7 7. An application as claimed in claim 6 wherein said apparatus
 further comprises:

3 means, responsive to an idea of a new type being defined,
4 for adapting said rendering means to render ideas of said new
5 type.

1 8. An application as claimed in claim 6, wherein said idea
2 types comprises at least one of thoughts, images and groups of
3 ideas.

1 9. An application as claimed in claim 6, comprising:

2 means for subscribing to specified idea types such that said
3 client application is informed when ideas of said type are
4 transmitted to said server.

1 10. An application as claimed in claim 6, wherein ideas of at
2 least some of said idea types are defined as being adapted to
3 contain ideas of at least one idea type.

1 11. An application as claimed in claim 10, comprising:

2 means for constructing a plurality of hierarchies of ideas;
3 means for moving ideas within a hierarchy according to said
4 idea types; and

5 means for transferring ideas between hierarchies according
6 to said idea types.

1 12. An application as claimed in claim 11, comprising:

2 means for selecting one of said rendered ideas; and

3 means for converting said one idea and any ideas below said
4 one idea in a hierarchy to a markup document comprising
5 definitions associated with any idea types of ideas within said
6 hierarchy and definitions of any ideas within said hierarchy.

1 13. An application as claimed in claim 11 comprising:

2 means for loading a markup document comprising definitions
3 associated with any idea types of ideas within a hierarchy of

4 ideas in said document and definitions of any ideas within said
5 hierarchy as new ideas.

1 14. An application as claimed in claim 12, wherein said markup
2 document language is Extensible Markup Language (XML).

1 15. An application as claimed in claim 1, wherein said means for
2 maintaining new ideas at the server stores said new ideas as
3 tuples of a TupleSpace at said server.

1 16. A computer program product comprising computer program code
2 stored on a computer readable storage medium, the program code
3 comprising an application as claimed in claim 1.

1 17. A method in an application adapted to run on a client
2 apparatus connectable with a server across a network, said server
3 adapted to simultaneously share information maintained therein
4 with a plurality of heterogeneous clients, wherein said
5 information comprises a plurality of ideas, said method
6 comprising the steps of:

7 retrieving said ideas from said server;

8 defining a new idea in a manner dependent on the client
9 apparatus platform; and

10 transmitting said new idea to said server for maintenance in
11 a platform-independent manner.